a continuous process. Efforts are continuously made to dispose off pending applications within the time frame set out for consideration of such proposals.

The investment in different parts of the country is basically guided by the commercial judgement of the investors which is based on various concessions & infrastructure facilities etc. provided by the respective State Government for industrial promotion as this the concern of State Government. Central Government, however, plays a supportive and pro-active role.

Encouragement to Auto Industry

1297. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to give fillip to auto industry; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Government has been continuously encouraging the growth of automotive sector. Industrial Licensing and capacity constraints have been removed. Commercial vehicles and auto components have been categorised as priority sector for foreign direct investment. For foreign equity participation upto 51% equity, the Reserve bank of India accords automatic approval. For equity participation involving more than 51% Government has been liberal in approving such cases. Since liberalisation, the automobile sector has shown a spectacular over all growth rate of over 20% (1993-94 to 1996-97) in the number of vehicles manufactured. Owing to slow down of the economy, this industry has been passing through a phase of sluggish growth during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99. To overcome the demand constraints high depreciation rate for commercial vehicles and scrapping of 15 years old vehicles in Delhi have been implemented. The thrust given for new housing and infrastructure initiatives for investment in road sector in the budget for 1999-2000 is likely to give further fillip for growth of this industry.

Monitoring of PMRY

1298. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any separate or special cell is operating in Prime Minister's Office to monitor Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, in what manner Prime Minister's Office is involved under the scheme;

(d) whether PMRY scheme has been recently reviewed, if so, the extent of success achieved under the scheme, so far;

(e) whether any suggestion to amend the scheme has come forth; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) No separate or special cell is operating in the Prime Minister's Office to monitor the Prime Minister, Rozgar Yojana. Periodic progress reports of the Prime Minister, Rozgar Yojana are sent to the Prime Minister's Office. Status notes on the implementation of the scheme for the States are also sent to the Prime Minister's Office as and when asked for.

(d) The scheme is constantly monitored and reviewed. Against the plan target of 9,20,000 beneficiaries, 10,38,090 cases were sanctioned and 7,61,758 cases were disbursed loans by banks from 1993-94 to 1997-98, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India.

(e) and (f) The scheme has been modified recently. The salient features of the modifications are age relaxation by 10 years for women, scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes, physically handicapped and ex-servicemen; the educational